

DONATIONS.

From the Hon. W. H. Suttor, Minister for Mines: Maps of the Hartley Coal Fields, prepared by C. S. Wilkinson, Esq., F.G.S.

From the Melbourne University, Calendar for 1877-78.

From the Societe Entomologique de Belgique, Compte Rendu, Part 45 of Serie II.

From Captain Hutton—Geology of Otago, by Hutton and Ulrich, and the following by the Donor:—Nest and Eggs of some New Zealand Birds; Structure of Leaf of Phormium Tenax; New Zealand Flax and its manufacture; Mechanical Principles involved in the flight of the Albatross; Sailing Flight of the Albatross—Reply to J. S. Webb; Modifications of the Capsules of Mosses; Moa Remains from the Knobby Ranges; Geographical Relations of New Zealand Fauna; New Zealand Sertularians; Relation between the Pareora and Ahuriri Formations; Contributions to the Ichthyology of New Zealand; New Zealand Delphinidæ; Cause of the former great extension of the Glacier in New Zealand; New Starfishes; Birds inhabiting the Southern Ocean; Zoology; New Genus of Rallidæ; New Tertiary Shells in the Otago Museum; Geological Structure of the Thames Gold Field; New Species of New Zealand Myriopoda; Peripatus Novæ Zealandiæ; Younger Formations of New Zealand; Date of the last Great Glacier Period in New Zealand.

PAPERS READ.

Description of a species of MYIOLESTES, from Fiji.

By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S.

MYIOLESTES NIGROGULARIS.*

Adult male. Crown of the head, mantle, and chest, ashy greyish-brown; back, wings, and all the upper surface of the

* Since the above has been in type I have ascertained that this *Myiolestes* has been previously described by Mr. E. L. Layard, under the name of *Lalage nigrogularis*. I am sure ornithologists will excuse me for not anticipating that Mr. Layard's "*Lalage*," of which I had not at that time seen a description, would prove to be a typical *Myiolestes*! I leave the description as it may be of use to ornithologists who may have been similarly misled; Mr. Layard's name of *nigrogularis* must, of course, stand.

body and tail, brown, of an olive brown on the outer webs of wings and tail, and slightly tinged with olive on the rump and upper tail-coverts; under surface of the wing and tail-quills brown, the shafts of the feathers white; the inner webs of the primaries and secondaries on the under side narrowly margined with pale reddish brown, lesser under wing-coverts and margins of the shoulder below black, axillaries whitish grey; ear-coverts slightly produced silky white; lores, sides of the face and the whole of the chin and throat extending to the chest and to behind the white ear-coverts, jet black; the black over the eye extends on the sides of the neck and sometimes across the nape, quite encircling the ashy grey of the crown of the head; chest, breast, and abdomen, ashy grey; flanks and under tail-coverts washed with olive or rufous brown; the tips of all the tail feathers slightly, and the two outer more distinctly tinged with fulvous; bill bluish horn color above and below, the inner margins white to the tip.

Immature males have the throat and sides of head and the chest ashy white, a black line behind the ear-coverts in some joins a black superciliary stripe extending from the black lores; the throat is mottled white and black. It is only in the fully adult (♂ ?) that the black extends across the nape.

Total length 8·3 in., wing 4 in., tail 3·5, tarsus 1·05, bill from forehead 1·2 in, from gape 1·3, height 0·4.

Measurements of immature species, all marked as males:—

	Inches.					
Total length	8·5	8·4	...	8·1
Wing	4	4	...	4
Tail	3·7	3·9	..	3·6
Tarsus	0·9	1	...	1
Bill from forehead	1·1	1·15	..	1·2
„ „ gape	1·2	1	...	1·25
„ „ nostril	0·7	0·7	...	0·8
„ in height	0·4	0·4	...	0·4

I am by no means certain that the young of this species may not prove identical with Mr. E. L. Layard's *Myiolestes maxima*, but as

the only specimen obtained by Pearce was purchased from him without his knowledge while he was at Levuka, I have, consequently, no means of ascertaining whether they are distinct or not. The *young* of this species would answer well with Mr. Layard's description of *M. maxima* as far as it goes, but Mr. Layard distinctly states his specimen to be a male; now even the young males in *M. nigrogularis* show black on the throat, which is not mentioned in the description of *M. maxima*.

VITIA RUFICAPILLA, *Ramsay*.

In the same collection from which I obtained the above described *Myiolestes* I also found fine specimens of *Vitia ruficapilla*, which I observe has been inadvertently *re-described* by Dr. Finsch, under the name *Drymochæra badiceps*.

EXHIBITS.

Mr. Masters exhibited *albino* specimens of the Common Magpie, *Gymnorhina tibicen*, *Tropidorhynchus buceroides*, *Climacteris scandens*, and *Grallina picata*, all differing very remarkably in plumage from the typical forms.

MONDAY, APRIL 29TH, 1878.

W. J. STEPHENS ESQ., M.A., President, in the Chair.

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From La Societe Entomologique de Belgique: Compte Rendu Serie II, Nos. 46 and 47; also, The Annals of the Society for 1877.

From Baron F. Von Mueller: Vol. X. Fragmenta Phytographia Australiæ.

From the Royal Society, Edinburgh: Proceedings 1875-76 and 1876-77.

From La Société Hollandaise des Sciences à Haarlem: Archives Néerlandaises des Sciences Exactes et Naturelles.

From the Auckland Institute, New Zealand: Report for 1877.